

Date: May 9, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine



President **Jackie Bryson** called the meeting to order at 6:01 and welcomed new members.

Honorary Street Renaming:

Council Members **Scotty Johnson** and **Liz Keating** addressed the DRC asking for a letter of support to rename a street in front of the justice center at Sycamore and Court Streets in honor of Simon Leis, former sheriff.

Rick Dieringer made a motion for the DRC to submit a letter of support to city council for naming the street in honor of Simon Leis. **Lisa Sprague** seconded; majority voted in favor; three opposed. The motion passed.

Monthly reports:

Captain **Adam Hennie** of the Cincinnati Police Department gave an update on recent incidents. He reported a large group of juveniles gathered on 5/9 at Government Square causing disruptions, resulting in a few arrests. Additionally, an arrest has been made in the shooting at Piatt Park. Furthermore, a protest recently occurred at Duke Energy Center. These are examples of incidents the Police Department wants to inform residents about using a new app called WhatsApp. The WhatsApp is a one-way communication tool to inform residents about what is going on and provide updates on past incidents.

Jackie Bryson will work with 3CDC to determine how best to utilize and communicate 'Whatsapp' information to DRC members - - whether have them register to receive it or have DRC leadership communicate appropriately with DRC membership. More to come in the next meeting.

A DRC member thanked Captain Hennie for the extra police presence near Frankies on Garfield Place. The presence has dissipated large gatherings.

Captain Hennie reported large gatherings are occurring in the parking lots on 7th Street near Knockback Nats. The area between Knockback Nats and Madonna's has become a hotspot. He reported all the lights on 7th Street between Vine and Race Streets were out. The problem is now resolved as Duke Energy installed new lighting. Additionally, the two parking lots on 7th Street installed new lighting and new technology. The new technology detects people in those parking lots that haven't paid the machine and will automatically notify the police. Residents should begin seeing significant improvements in the block between Knockback Nats and Madonna's.

A DRC member asked about police redistricting and impact. Captain Hennie reported Downtown is not impacted and the Cincinnati Business district will assume responsibility for Mt. Adams.

Officer **Chris Loreaux** reviewed the latest crime statistics report. Crime stats are up in the last three years, but under the five-year average. The focus continues to be on Government Square, Fountain Square, Piatt Park, Kroger On the Rhine and Smale Park. There have been reports from citizens and officers on 6th Street by Rusconi's of increased activity. Over one weekend officers wrote 50 parking tickets there. The department is working with leaders to improve the area.

Captain **Daniel Coletta** of the Cincinnati Fire Department (Central Station location) reported this location has a bomb unit, which serves Hamilton County and Northern Kentucky. He shared the latest fire run statistics. In April, there were 312 total runs; 302 EMS run and 10 bomb runs. In March there were a total of 297 runs. A high percentage (31%) of EMS runs come from one location: the Drop In Center. He reminded people May is safety and fire alarm month. He encouraged residents to check gas grill connections and practice safe grilling.

Marissa Reed of 3CDC gave an update on current projects targeted at vacant store fronts. Graphics were installed on the windows at 4 W 4th and 8 W 4th street. Boards were installed and painted on windows at 33 W 4th street.

Marissa reported volunteers from the Convention Center painted a retaining wall 'Path to Taft' on April 25th. In June, another group from Deloitte will be painting. Volunteers from GE will be mulching and planting beds on 3rd street between Sycamore and Main streets this week.

Marissa outlined events scheduled for the summer season. Raggae Wednesday will be relocated to Washington Park. New to Fountain Square this year is open mic night on Wednesday. Salsa on the Square is scheduled for Thursday. Court Street will host a flower market and monthly wine walks. Washington Park will continue to have jazz on Monday, trivia on Tuesday, workouts on Wednesday and special events. Movie night will be relocated from Washington Park to Ziegler Park. Imagination Alley will host family friendly activities.

Marissa gave an update on the property at 435 Elm Street (location of former convention place mall). The property will be demolished, including the two skywalks. Target start date is mid-May and will be a six-month project.

DRC members asked if there would be any restrictions accessing the parking garage at 4th and Race or nearby pedestrian obstructions. At this time, pedestrian and vehicular traffic closures around the demo area are being worked out.

Marissa announced new staff members have been assigned to the Outreach program. Laura Allen is the new GeneroCity Supervisor and Tara is overseeing the entire GeneroCity team. They are also interviewing a 5th seasonal Outreach worker.

Marissa reviewed the statistics for the chronically homeless in the area. Chronically homeless went from 15 in March 2022 to four in March 2023. Marissa reminded residents to call the Outreach hotline when they see panhandling or homelessness on the streets.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported the Annual Interest Grant (AIG) funds were received. These funds are used to support the Outreach program, which is sponsored by DRC using the AIG money. DRC Board member **Teri Boland** will spearhead the Outreach program this year. She asked for three volunteers to help her show appreciation to Firefighters, Police and Ambassadors.

Social Director **Mary Heimert** reported 40+ members have RSVP'd for the social on May 17th at Corkopolis. They are extending their happy hour until 8PM. Multiple events have been scheduled through the summer in 2023.

Old Business

Rick Dieringer made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Sue Bryom** seconded, and all voted in favor.

New Business

Jackie Bryson announced the 2023 DRC Executive Board members. **Alan Bunker**, Vice President; **Jackie Bryson**, President; **Tricia Lynn** continues as Treasurer; Sally **Donovan**, Recording Secretary; and **Esther Wing** continues as Corresponding Secretary.

Speakers

Seth Harmon introduced **Chris Kendall**, volunteer with Senior Medical Patrol/Pro Seniors. Chris explained his organization gets the word out about Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud is a \$60 billion a year problem. He explained three fraud types: 1. Medicare cards - bad actors come after cards to get your Medicare number. Never give numbers out. 2. Phone calls – an avenue for fraud. Medicare will never call. Bad actors act as Medicare agents to get card numbers. 3. Explanation of Benefits (EOB) - always compare services billed to those actually rendered.

Senior Medical Patrol/Pro Seniors also help people get through to Medicare. They also offer services to help navigate Medicare (compare plans), send staff to evaluate a retirement/nursing home for a loved one and provide some free legal services.

Announcements

Jackie welcomed those having announcements to come forward.

Chuck Curran, an ambassador from the hill, represented the historic Mt. Adams Walking Tour. The tour occurs every Sunday at 1PM May – October. The tour is one mile and lasts about two hours. Those interested can either register at mtadamscincu.org or show up at Mt Adams Bar and Grill. The cost is \$10 per guest.

Margaret Swallow, a volunteer at Cincinnati World Cinema, encouraged members to attend three upcoming films: Rise-Roar-Revolt (RRR), InVigilio, and Gordon Lightfoot. The cinema is located at 719 Race Street.

Jackie introduced **Sydney Franklin**, Real Estate Enterprise Reporter for the Enquirer. She is working on a series of projects about the Future of Downtown Cincinnati. Her current project is a photo essay on people and dogs. She is looking for residents to participate in the project to be photographed and/or interviewed.

Jackie reviewed a new DRC brochure that describes the DRC mission, monthly community meetings and benefits of a DRC business membership. An invitation to attend a monthly meeting is attached to the brochure. She encouraged all residents to take a few brochures with them and invite others to attend a meeting and become a member.

Tricia Lynn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:02.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.